BOWLAND

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF

J. J. SMITHIES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR 1910.

M. A. Whewell, Printer, Clitheroe.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1910.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. SMITHIES.

BOWLAND

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

It is again my duty to present my annual report.

I am expected by the Local Government Board to give a geographical outline of the district and I therefore write a resume of my previous reports.

The district is about nineteen miles wide by fourteen miles North to South. The river Hodder runs through its centre, and the river Ribble marks its course from a point at Nappa to

Swan Side Brook foot. From this point the district is on the right hand side of the river for some seven or eight miles to the meeting of the waters (Ribble and Hodder) at Hodder foot. This is the Mytton domain. As the Hodder runs through the centre of the district, it is, with its various tributaries the chief means of drainage and water supply

POPULATION.

I consider the population to be about the same as for many years.

	1881.	1891.	1901-2.
Whole District ...	5825	5292	5237
Gisburn	2023	1943	2560
Slaidburn	1489	1395	1395
Clitheroe Sub-District ...	1636	2753	1136
Whalley	144	146	146

The marked difference in the Gisburne population is because Grindleton was added in the year 1902.

There is very little pollution in either the Ribble or the Hodder. Salmon and Sea Trout spawn in great numbers from July to November according to the floods and condition of waters. Again this year 1910, will be remembered by fishermen because of the great number of fresh run fish, of course the ordinary brown trout is indigenous to both rivers.

The Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway enters the district at a point near Twistle Bridge, Rimington, and so on past Newsholme, which is a distance of about eight miles.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous years.

BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District				Deaths of Residents registered in public Institutions beyond the District	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District	
				Under 1 Year of age		At all ages				
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	Number	Rate		Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1900	5292	123	23·2	8	65·0	81	15·6	...	81	15.6
1901	5237	124	23·6	8	65·0	69	13·1	...	69	13·1
1902	,,	114	21·7	9	78·9	64	12·2	...	64	12·2
1903	,,	115	21·9	11	95·6	69	13·1	...	69	13·1
1904	,,	133	25·3	10	75·2	73	13·6	...	73	13·6
1905	,,	104	19·8	7	67·3	69	13·1	2	71	13·5
1906	,,	104	19·8	9	86·6	62	11·8	5	67	12·7
1907	,,	100	19·2	2	50·0	56	10·69	2	58	10·9
1908	,,	115	21·9	10	86.9	67	12·2	6	73	13·9
1909	,,	103	19·8	6	58·2	59	11·2	4	63	12·0
Averages for years 1900-09	,,	113·5	21·6	8·3	72·8	66·9	12·6	3·4	68·8	13·0
1910	5237	108	20·6	3	27·7	47	8·99	7	54	10·3

Rate in Columns 4, 8, and 11 calculated per 1000 of estimated population

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 8334a. 9r. 21p

Total population at all ages	5237	At Census 1901
Total number of Inhabited houses	1144	
Average number of persons per house	4·58	

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The district has an immense acreage, it is well wooded in the valley on both the Slaidburn and Waddington Fell side.

Whitewell, Newton and Slaidburn being especially picturesque, as also are the Mytton, Waddington and Sawley Townships. Hundreds of Tourists from all parts of Lancashire visit the district in the summer time.

There are vast tracts of Moor lands. The chief employment is agriculture. The making of butter and cheese, together with the rearing of young stock. Latterly however, where farms are conveniently situated, milk is sent away in very large quantities. We have now seventy-three farmers who send to various towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire, more especially the former, because of the easy railway accommodation.

The acreage of the whole district is 83,343, the Slaidburn district covering more than half.

TEMPERATURE

The mean Tempeature taken at Stonyhurst Observatory is about 46·9, and the mean annual rainfall is about 47·7

YEAR BOOK

A useful Year Book has again been compiled by your Clerk, Mr. Thos. Eastham, for reference both as to rateable values and general information

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

This is joint with the Borough of Clitheroe and the Lancashire Rural Council, and was put up some years ago, as yet we have not had occasion to use it in a single instance. You are aware this was to be a Smallpox Isolation Hospital.

OVERCROWDING

We have had no cases of overcrowding and no common lodging houses

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

It is here that I should like to allude to the immense Milk Traffic from the Bowland District

I find that not less than 3000 gallons of milk is sent away by the L & Y Railway Co. to various towns every day

With regard to this matter my Inspector has given instructions to the farmers as to the requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Workshops Order, and of the Regulations thereunder, and notices have been issued as to care of milk and milking.

At present power is provided to at once stop the public sale of milk where there are certain infringements of the Dairy and Cowshed Order and when the Water supply is not good.

All the Cowsheds and Shippons are in fair Sanitary condition and are regularily limewashed. Handbills as supplied by the County Council have been sentto all Milk Sellers

FOOD

I consider this has been good We have had no cases of Tuberculosis reported There has been no diseased meat offered for sale, and the slaughterhouses are as clean as you can expect being buildings of old style

DISINFECTING APPARATUS

So far there has been no necessity for one, infected articles have been burnt outright

FACTORIES

There are two Factories, two Bakeries and twenty-four Workships

Of the two Cotton Mills, one is at Grindleton and one at West Bradford

Suction Gas, Steam and Water power are used, turbines being fixed in each because of the excellence of water supply

The West Bradford Mill gives regular employment to about fifty people It is under strict supervision, and in a good position, the arrangements are good, and the sanitary condition excellent Electricity is used for lighting purposes, in fact it is quite a model mill

A register of Workshops is kept by your Clerk and the Nuisance Inspector

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE

Waddington Sewage is working satisfactorly now, Grindleton has not begun its scheme Where there has been complaints at any farm Mr. Burrows has advised and improvements made as far as possible.

The pail system is generally adopted, and night soil regularly removed and spread on the land.

There is a public scavenger at Waddington, Bolton-by-Bowland, but not yet at Grindleton. Since the sewering of Gisburn the health of that village has been most satisfactory.

ANTHRAX

On February 2nd, a case of Anthrax was reported from Wytha Farm, Rimington. When I visited the farm, the Police instructions with regard to the Order had been carried out I consider this an important matter so far as the Farmers are concerned It will be remembered that Anthrax occurred at Craven Laithe a few years ago, and that a poor fellow, who flayed the cow was infected and died from malignant pustula Anthrax. Now this farm Wytha adjoins Craven Laithe, and even now as I write, January, 1911, another case is reported from the next adjoining farm, Lower Gills, Rimington.

After the police instructions are carried out, I can tell the farmer nothing more than that he should use quick lime in quantity on the dungs and in and about the infected area. If the Board of Agriculture can give further advice we ask for it.

TABLE II Vital Statistics of sep

BOWLAND RUR

Names of Localities	WHOLE				GISBURNE				
Year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Populati estimated middle o each yea
	a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*a*	*b*	*c*	*d*	*a*
1900	5292	123	81	8	2023	51	36	5	1489
1901	5337	124	69	8	2560	66	42	4	1395
1902	,,	114	64	9	,,	55	26	2	,,
1903	,,	115	69	11	,,	57	28	4	,,
1904	,,	133	73	10	,,	72	35	5	,,
1905	,,	104	69	7	,,	49	35	4	,,
1906	,,	104	62	9	,,	56	27	6	,,
1907	,,	100	56	5	,,	48	33	2	,,
1908	,,	115	73	10	,,	57	47	8	,,
1909	,,	103	59	6	,,	50	22	1	,,
Average of Years 1900-09	,,	113·5	67·5	8·3	,,	56·1	33·1	4·1	,,
1910	5237	108	54	4	2560	51	22	2	1395

te Localities in 1910 and previous years

DISTRICT COUNCIL

SLAIDBURN			CLITHFROE SUB-DISTRICT				WHALLEY SUB-DISTRICT			
Births istered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
b	*c*	*d*	*a*	*b*	*c*	*d*	*a*	*b*	*c*	*d*
27	21	...	1636	38	24	3	144	7	...	...
29	10	1	1136	23	12	2	146	6	1	1
31	19	4	,,	22	17	2	,,	6	2	1
25	18	4	,,	31	19	2	,,	2	3	1
35	20	2	,,	24	15	2	,,	2	3	1
31	13	1	,,	22	16	1	,,	2	5	1
22	20	1	,,	22	15	2	,,	4	...	...
24	12	1	,,	24	11	2	,,	4	...	...
33	13	1	,,	21	13	1	,,	4	...	...
26	21	4	,,	23	16	1	,,	4	...	...
28·3	16·7	1·9	,,	25·0	15·8	1·8	,,	4·1	1·4	0·5
32	13	...	1136	21	19	2	146	4	...	...

The fact is the spores of Anthrax are very vital, and will live in the dung for a long time. Then they get spread on the grass, and possibly into the hay, when once into the animals system the bacillus breeds or increases so quickly that the hearts action is overcome and the animal dies very soon.

TYPHOID AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In January I had three cases of Fever reported from Eddisford Cottages. The cause was difficult to trace. The water supply is from the Borough of Clitheroe, which I have hitherto had no reason to suspect. Cleanliness, disinfection and isolation was attended to, and I am glad to say that all the children did well.

There has been no death during the year from any infectious disease.

Scarlet Fever was reported from Coldweather House, Gisburn. There were four cases in all. The house is perfectly isolated and the infection is supposed to have been through the eldest girl, who had acted as nurse in the adjoining district coming in contact with the disease,

In the September Quarter I had one case of Scarlatina reported from Tosside.

With regards to the distribution of Diphtheric Antitoxia Serum, your Clerk, Mr. Eastham and myself have arranged that supplies should be kept at what we consider the three most convenient centres, viz :

1 The house of Mr. Burrows, Nuisance Inspector, Gisburne
2 The Surgery of Dr. Smith, Slaidburn.
3 The Clitheroe Police Station

The first arrangement is most convenient for Paythorne Newsholme, Rimington, &c

The second is supposed to cover Newton, Tosside, and the two Divisions of Bowland Forest

The third through the kindness of the Chief Constable of Clitheroe is the last centre for the more populous villages of Grindleton. Waldington and West Bradford, and adjoining districts In all necessitious cases the medical gentlemen will be able to quickly secure a supply from any of the places named

Now as to the order for the destruction of Rats (with which I quite agree) I do not think that there is any need for your Council to take action in our district, for as you know a many of our young men regularily go out with their dogs and ferrets for a half a days sport, and the gamekeepers make a special effort to keep down the vermin

I am quite sure that it is very unwise to resort to poison for the destruction of Rats, for if the dead carcase of a rat is under a floor or in a wall it is bad to locate, aud if not removed will stiuk for weeks and possibly be the cause of some pestilence

I would suggest that if any farmer in our district is troubled with rats at his home that he should report the matter to Mr. Burrow, our Nuisance Inspector, he will then take the matter in hand, and supply him with fumigants or crude liquid disinfectants which if pumped into their holes will at least remove them from their quarters, then of course the gamekeepers, the dogs, the ferrets and the boys have a better chance of killing them.

The dead carcases of animals should be buried or burnt without delay, this is an important matter, but often not attended to.

SCHOOL CLOSING

I had occasion to advise the closing of Grindleton School from June 22nd to July 7th, because of loss of attendances &c., children were absent from mumps and measles.

In November at Tosside Chapel School, Dr. Mansfield, the Inspector of Schools found children actually desquamating after Scarlet Fever. Up to now I had had no report, on the same day I visited the School, consulted the Managers, &c., we resolved to close for three weeks. In the meantime I advised that the school should be thoroughly cleaned, limewashed and re-painted. Books, maps, slates and boards washed and disinfected. The Managers carried this work out most satisfactory. Here I wish to suggest that all School Managers take the hint and do the same sort of work during every vacation. it is essentially necessary that limewashing and cleanliness be regularly resorted to, no matter what the expenses may be, for when numbers of children are in the same room for six hours each day, the walls get thick with dust, woodwork unclean and must become very objectionable, indeed, now-a-day out door teaching, (when weather is fit) is becoming the idea of the day, and I think surely it will prove the lesser of the two possible risks, i.e., fever or cold.

WATER SUPPLY.

Great Mytton, Grindleton, West Bradford, and some Farmhouses in the district are supplied from the Clitheroe Corporation Waterworks, and during the year too Sawley Bank Bottom and district has also been supplied from this source. At Mytton, troughs for the cattle would be much appreciated.

Mr. Assheton has taken a supply of water from Chatburn water to his property at Smithies Bridge.

The Water Supply for cattle to Cheetall farm has been improved, but it is even yet in a very primitive, objectionable and unsatisfactory condition. The supply to farms in Bashall Eaves is from its own reservoir. I have had no complaints except in time of flood when it is muddy. The much frequented Public Houses, Red Pump and Hodder Bridge have both their supply from this source

Waddington (a private Company) This is a progressive village up to now. The analysis of water has always been good. Of course in time of flood pollution may occur in the upper gatherings, if there is to be any change the remedy is to go still further up the hill side where there are several good water courses.

I am told that the villagers are satisfied with their supply at Bolton-by-Bowland, and Gisburn is also very satisfactory. Rimington and Stopper Lane are now in a much better position.

The out-lying villages of Newton, Slaidburn, Paythorne and Newsholme are chiefly dependent on their supply from wells, troughs and pumps.

Monibent farm has no water supply excepting rain water collected in cisterns, &c , I have regularly for some years referred to the matter, because in the summer the farm is liable to drought, and the cattle have to be driven long distances day by day before their wants can be satisfied. The water from the pump at the house is very bad, not fit for use, and was condemned some years ago.

TABL

BOWLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL. C

Causes of Death.		Deaths at subjoine whether occuring i		
		All ages	Under 1 yr	1 and under 5
Phthisis	...	1	...	...
Cancer	..	6	...	...
Bronchitis and Pneumonia		7	...	...
Alcoholism	...	1	...	...
Premature Birth	...	3	3	...
Heart Disease	...	3	...	...
Accidents	...	2	...	...
Suicides	...	1	...	...
Suffocation	...	1	1	..
Found Dead	...	3	...	...
All other causes	...	26	...	...
All causes	...	54	4	...

IV.

es of, and ages at Death during the year, 1910.

ges of "Residents" beyond the District.				Deaths at all ages of Residents belonging to Localities whether occuring in or beyond the Dist.			
d er	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Gisburne	Slaidburn	Clith' Sub-Dist.	Whalley Sub.
	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
	...	3	3	3	1	2	...
	...	2	5	...	4	3	...
	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
	...	2	...	2	...	1	...
	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	...	1	1	2	1	...	...
	...	8	17	12	6	8	...
3	3	18	26	22	13	19	...

Carter Lane Head Farm is exactly in the same unfortunate position. There is no true water supply. At this place too it is more than ever necessary because the tenant of the farmer has a licensed registered knackers yard, and in order to carry out this business effectively, it is essentially necessary that there should be a continued and plentiful supply of fresh water.

It is not for me to suggest what you should do, but Mr. Burrows and myself think that some mechanical scheme could lift the water to the necessary height.

You have wind mills and hydraulic rams, &c., to choose from. Let something be done.

Carr Holme Farm is another farm where the supply is unsatisfactory, and the method very primitive and unmanagable, this is by means of a " patent " pump.

I have nothing more to say but that it is always necessary frequently to renew the filter beds with clean sand, also to protect and cover the receiving tanks. These remarks apply to all but more particularly to Waddington and Bashall Eaves.

The Nuisance Inspector, who is also Surveyor, is regularly all over the country. He has removed 8 Nuisances, and 8 Sink Pipes have been attached, he has occasionally inspected Slaughter Houses and Milk Sheds in the district.

I append his report.

a The milk sold from the district is very great, and I consider it good and wholesome, it is under strict inspection both at home and in the towns where it is sold.

b I have no reason to suspect foods sold in my district.

c Water Supply alluded to already, but I may say that with the exception of some farms in the summer the supply is constant.

d I do not consider our Rivers much polluted as both Hodder and Ribble abound with fish, if there is pollution at all it is in the lower reach of the Ribble from the oily matter used for the turbines at Low Moor Mills, at this point to there is much refuse and vegetable matter thrown into the river.

e The Grindleton and Bolton-by-Bowland Sewerage Schemes are under consideration Gisburne is working satisfactorily

f Waddington is also doing well, both these are under the irrigation principle

g There are not many water closets in the district, but what there are are on the tippler system, or the most approved methods

h As to Farm Houses and Cottages I have always gone in for the pail system in this district, for I am satisfied it ensures more regular and frequent removal. As a rule this is disposed of and mixed well with soil and then put on to the garden and land.

i There is a public Scavanger at Waddington and Bolton-by-Bowland, but not at Grindleton

j House refuse at farms and many other houses go into manure heaps, middens, &c., and then on to land and gardens

There are several "tips" as they are called in the larger villages, and we have to do as best we can, for a destructor in a wide district like this would be altogether impracticable

Up to now Mr. Burrows and myself have inspected 91 houses, the book which will be regularly submitted for your inspection at the monthly meetings.

I now submit the Vital Statistics for the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I had 14 cases reported to me during the whole year as compared with 30 of last year. 11 were Scarlet Fever. 3 Typhoid Fever 7 in Gisburne, 7 in Clitheroe-Sub. Vide Table III.

There was no death from either cause afterwards. Rooms were cleaned and disinfected, toys, papers and books burnt.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There were 108 Children born as compared with 103 of of last year and of these 57 were males and 51 females.

51	were born in	Gisburne District.
32	do.	Slaidburn.
21	do.	Clitheroe Sub-District.
4	do.	Whalley.
108		

This gives a Birthrate of 20 · 6 per 1000 per annum. Five of these were illigitimate.

Taking the last ten years there is an average yearly number of 113 · 5 born in the whole district.

DEATHS.

There were actually registered in my district 47 cases. 3 of which were strangers who died when visiting in the country

One poor lad was drowned at Whitewell. So that the rate was and would have been low indeed, coming out at 8 · 99 per 1000 per annum as it is. Of these deaths 23 were males and 24 females. Corrected death rate 10 · 3.

Taking the cases of deaths from Public Institutions, the number comes out at 54, with a corrected death rate of 10 · 3 per 1000 per annum.

For other years vide Table II.

22	of these belonged to	Gisburne District.
13	do.	Slaidburn.
19	do.	Clitheroe
0	do.	Whalley
54		

Of these 4 died in Clitheroe Workhouse
1 at Blackburn Infirmary
2 Menstone Asylum

7

Vide Table IV

Twenty-six of these were in persons of over 65 years.

INFANT MORTALITY

This is as nearly nil as it possibly can be inasmuch as 4 Infants died in the whole district. One was really born in Clitheroe, 3 were premature, 1 was Infantile Convulsions or overlaid. This gives an Infantile Death rate of 27 · 7 per 1000, of Children born as compared with 58 · 2 even of last year.

With these remarks as to Infantile mortality I close. As a rule the children in Bowland Rural District are well bred, properly fed and properly cared for

Mr. Burrows, the Nuisance Inspector, is also the Road Surveyor for this part of the County. Of course this takes him into every nook and corner of the district, and so where any nuisance is observed or reported to him the matter is promptly attended to.

I now append his Report.

The other Tables as required by the Local Government Board, Chief Inspector of Factories, &c., and the County Medical Officer of Health are also attached.

At the end of the year there was very little sickness of any kind in any part of the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient,

JOSEPH J. SMITHIES.

February 4th, 1911.

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for the past year

At the time of writing there are 73 farmers who are now selling milk from within the area of the Bowland Rural District

The milk in all cases is sent away by train into the Bolton, Radcliffe and Southport Districts with the exception of about three which go to Nelson, Clitheroe and Waddington

There are other farmers throughout the district who sell a few quarts per day as accommodating in the various villages These are not on the Register

The Cow sheds and Water supply thereto are on the whole satisfactory except in a very few cases where milk is sent away

We have six Slaughterhouses in the district which are in a satisfactory condition except the one at Slaidburn There should have been a new one erected in place of this one, but up to the present this has not been carried out. I am pleased to say that all the Butchers in the district kill nothing but good sound meat

Any carcases from farms in the district happening any accident or through other causes have to be slaughtered and inspected, they are then sent off to other towns and not consumed within our own district

There has been 8 Slopstone drains disconnected and trapped during the year, and all nuisances and structural alterations reported have been carried out At the time of writing there are several in hand

Scavenging has been carried out satisfacrory in the villages of Bolton-by-Bowland, Holden and Waddington by the Contractors, I have had no complaints from any of these places during the past year

The removal of ashes, &c, in Gisburne to a great extent is carried out by myself, the householders paying the cost of removal

At the time of writing the District Council and the Parish Council of Grindleton have under consideration the question of contracting for the removal of Ashes and other refuse in the village of Grindleton, which I have no doubt will be arranged at an early date

Disinfectants have been freely supplied to both Schools and private houses in the district where any infectious diseases have been reported and fumigation carried out where necessary

During the past year Building Bye-Laws have been adopted by the District Council which will no doubt prove beneficial

During the year the Grindleton Water Main has been extended from the School to Bank Bottom, and most of the owners have availed themselves of the supply

The Water Supply to Cheetall Farm from the analysis just received is far from being satisfactory.

I remain,

Yours truly,

A BURROW,

Inspector of Nuisances.